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Disney Plans Bid On Mineral King Recreation Site

LOS ANGELES — Walt Disney will submit an application to the US Forest Service for a lease to develop extensive summer and winter recreational facilities at Mineral King, a picturesque 20 square mile area in the Sierra east of Visalia.

During its regular quarterly meeting yesterday, Walt Disney Productions' board of directors voted full approval and support of the action.

Disney said that plans for the multimillion dollar project are now being finalized and will be ready for submittal to the forest service by the 2:00 PM deadline on August 31st.

The forest service issued a prospectus last March to solicit proposals from private investors for the development of a year round recreation site at Mineral King. The prospectus noted the ever increasing public demand for winter sports facilities.

Two Big Needs

"Our whole master plan for this region is based on two very important needs," Disney emphasized. "First is the necessity to preserve the great natural beauty of the site. That is a must.

"Second, we want Mineral King to become a year round recreational facility for everyone, regardless of age, income, leisuretime interests or athletic abilities."

Disney noted that his plans center around the development of ski lifts and trails, making available some of the longest and most perfect ski runs in North America.

Although skiing and other types of winter activities are important elements of his proposal, Disney said summer recreational opportunities at Mineral King are of equal importance.

"Facilities for fishing, camping, pack trips, hiking, wildlife study trips, picnicking and sight seeing by ski-lift are included," he said. "According to our studies, Mineral King should offer a wide range of activities for everyone every day of the year."

At present, Mineral King is inaccessible during winter months because of road conditions. Development of the region is contingent upon the construction of an all weather road.

If his application is accepted, Disney plans to launch an immediate research and development program aimed at assuring the most feasible land usage. The entire project would be completed in the mid 1970's.

Chargers Put

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